

## **MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2021**

The August 12, 2021 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was conducted via Zoom and was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe. Participating were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Jim McMekin, Ruth Panté, Township Committeeman Glen McGuinness and Township Clerk Dena Hrebenak. Amanda Kilyk was excused. Not responding to the invitation were Glenn Todd and Kathie Todd. Also participating were township residents Jacqueline, Teresa Beam, Mercedes Proefrock, Alison Molnar, Sue Codey, Bill Sosis, Don Proefrock, Frank Spender, Anthony Schleicher, Brock, Giovanni Valli, Carley Desimone, Glen Wainen, Juan Aguirre, Jr., Kristi Cifarelli, Kirsten Goodnick, Alison Lorentson and Sean Breheny. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Township residents attended because of their interest in a proposed food composting facility on Blau Road. The residents live in the nearby Grandview development and anticipate difficulties with odor, vermin and insects as well as truck traffic. Mr. Tarlowe proposed reviewing this New Business topic first, before addressing the Agenda issues.

Mr. Tarlowe turned the meeting over to Mr. Jewell who is a member of the township Land Use Board and who is very familiar with this issue. He described the presentation to the Land Use Board by Wayne DeFeo representing Pio Costa, the company proposing the composting facility, at its June 21 meeting. Attending that meeting was attorney Mark Peck and Christine Pio Costa Lahue, CEO of Rensselaer Properties. Mr. DeFeo reviewed the proposed food recycling law governing the recycling of food products that covers food waste from area facilities, such as grocery stores and restaurants. The law requires recycling of food wastes if within 25 miles of a facility which accepts such material for recycling; the proposed facility will not accept residential food waste. The facility will utilize the Aerated Static Pile (ASP) system which minimizes odors.

Mr. Jewell, Grandview resident Alison Molnar and Land Use Board member Joseph Farino made a site visit to Ag Choice, an organics recycling facility in Andover Township which specializes in food waste recycling. He made the following observations: The Andover facility accepts foods pre-consumer with no local contribution; food wastes, including fish and coconuts were being processed with no odor; a 10-foot berm on the field acts as a buffer; the facility is different from the proposed Blau Road facility in that it uses open windows instead of the ASP system which utilizes bins on a cement floor and no turning of the material since air is blown into the base of each pile. There is no such facility in New Jersey. Mr. DeFeo will try to arrange for a site visit to a similar facility in New York State. Mr. Jewell said during the Andover visit all parties were very open about answering questions.

Mr. Tarlowe reminded that truck traffic is a concern to residents. Mr. Jewell said 10 to 15 trucks is proposed, but this will be determined by supply and demand. The township's designated truck route would not go past the Grandview development.

Mr. Proefrock asked Mr. Jewell if any deliveries were made while on site. No deliveries were made during the two-hour visit. Mr. Jewell said the air blower would cut down on odor.

Mr. Spender asked about flies and vermin; Mr. Jewell said no deer, raccoons or other animals were present but he did see flies. Mr. Spender then asked how much water would be used, to which Mr. Jewell said this was discussed at the Land Use Board meeting. The facility water runoff would be captured and used at the facility, that would ensure no flooding. The regulations for waste going to the compost facility are very strict. Mr. Wainen said he can understand the Governor saying any facility within 25 miles must use this facility.

Mr. Spender asked if the Environmental Commission would weigh in on this proposal when it is reviewed by the Land Use Board, and Mr. Jewell said the Environmental Commission's job is to review and comment on environmental issues; the Land Use Board will rely on the township attorney and engineer for their expertise.

Mr. Tarlowe asked about the next steps; Mr. Jewell explained approval from Mansfield Township and from the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, then approval from the county. Everyone within 200 feet of the property will receive notice of those meetings. This Environmental Commission has no jurisdiction until there is a site plan submitted to the Township, and even then the Environmental Commission is strictly advisory in its comments. Mr. Tarlowe encouraged all attendees to stay informed of the process of submitting this project for approval; he also encouraged the guests to consider volunteering to serve on the Environmental Commission or a township committee and directed them to the volunteer form on the township's website. He also invited all to stay on line with the Environmental Commission meeting.

Mr. Tarlowe thanked the residents for attending and urged them to continue to monitor this proposed facility by attending township meetings.

### Minutes

Mr. McMekin MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell. With no abstentions or corrections, all were in favor.

Correspondence: None.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Bluebird Trail

Mr. Tarlowe reported two families participated in care and monitoring of the seven boxes this year. One adult and 11 chicks were banded this year along with three Tree Swallows; 24 chicks were counted. He said one box had two dead chicks.

#### Salem Oak Seedling

Mr. Tarlowe reported the seedling planted at Cafferata Park in April is doing well. He has watered it during dry spells, clipped the grass around it and put down fresh mulch. As to a dedication ceremony, Mr. Tarlowe said we still have Covid concerns; perhaps next Arbor Day would be an appropriate time for a dedication. Mr. Jewell agrees, and both suggested a plaque to commemorate would be appropriate.

### Land Use Board

Mr. Jewell reported that until water and sewer lines are completed to the club house at Meadows of Mansfield, the cut-off for certificates of occupancy will be set at 80 homes. Mr. McMekin questioned the sewer system at Meadows, and Mr. Jewell explained the developer is considering tying in to the Washington Township sewer system.

### Green Team

Ms. Fascenelli reported a one-year extension for completion of certification requirements has been requested from Sustainable Jersey. There will be a shredding event on October 16, 8-11 a.m. at the Township Garage.

Mr. Jewell MOVED to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:  
September 9, 2021**